

AFTER holding gate prices steady for two seasons, Wycombe Wanderers have been forced to increase the price of entry to Loakes Park for the 1974-75 season.

Inevitably the rising cost of running a football club is the basic reason for the increase. As Wycombe's balance sheet for last season shows, almost everything is costing the club more money and in order to maintain the same standards of last year the gate prices just had to go up.

The committee decided to put five pence on the three categories. Adults will now pay 30p instead of 25, Boys 20p instead of 15 and Old Age Pensioners 10p instead of five. Entry to the enclosure and stand is up from 15 to 20.

Season tickets also are up, both to the ground and the stand. A season ticket now costs £5 for adults and £2.50 for juniors. However, there is still a distinct financial advantage of becoming a season ticket holder. For your ticket you can see every league match at Loakes Park (21) and also the five friendlies that will be arranged to take the place of the Premier Midweek Floodlight League. To pay 30p for each of those games would cost £7.80, the season ticket is £5 — a saving of £2.80.

An additional advantage to season ticket holders is that if Wycombe are successful in their cup competitions, stand season ticket holders will get the first refusal on their seats. In other words their seat is guaranteed.

As usual, season tickets will be on sale at the treasurer's office

ROTHMANS Isthmian League champions, Wycombe Wanderers, could kick off the season without last year's captain Larry Pritchard and regular-left back Roger Grant. These two players have not been seen at the club's training sessions at Bisham Abbey and are not included in the squad to meet Didcot Town in the Blues' first friendly behind closed doors at Bisham Abbey tomorrow (Saturday).

As always at this stage of the season, players are still deciding on what clubs to join and, except those contracted by clubs in the Rothmans Isthmian League, a player does not actually become a member of a club until he has played in a league game. Pritchard's name, for instance, has been linked with Dulwich Hamlet and Sutton United for several weeks but until the first match on August 17, it will not be clear which club he joins. Grant has been training with Hitchin Town.

There have been several new faces at the training sessions under the guidance of assistant manager John Reardon. John has been in charge as manager Brian Lee is on holiday. Amongst them is Mick Chatterton, a powerful centre forward who won an Amateur Cup losers medal with Slough Town two years ago. He scored over 30 goals for Rebels in that season. His previous clubs are Maidenhead United and Enfield.

Ray Eaton, who went on tour with the Blues to Cyprus at the end of last term, has been training but has also been linked with Ilford. Graham Cracknell, a goalkeeper who began his career with

Wycombe increase gate prices by 5p all round

during the pre-season friendlies on August 5, 7 and 10. If supporters would prefer to obtain their ticket by post, however, they should write to treasurer Roger Lee, enclosing the cheque and also a stamped addressed envelope. Roger's address is "Amberwood", Bryant's Bottom, Great Missenden.

The increase in gate prices can hardly come as a surprise to Wycombe fans. With prices soaring at the present time and last year's introduction of Value Added Tax, which cost Wanderers around £1,500 last term, the gates just had to be raised in order to maintain existing standards.

Since the last increase in the 1971-72 season, costs have risen

dramatically. The cost of travel was clearly shown at the club's A.G.M. last week. Compared with £6,915 in 1972-73, Wycombe paid out £12,022 last year. Everyday costs like electricity, rates and gas were all up on last year while postage, telephone and bank charges also increased.

New faces in Blues' squad for friendlies

Spartan Leaguers Amersham Town, has also been at the sessions. He played for Hayes last year and was between the posts when Wanderers won 3-0 at Church Road. He was also a Loughborough College representative. Another goalkeeper in training with Wanderers is Keith Griffiths, a Watford Youth player.

A player who also toured with Wycombe and turned out for Wanderers on a couple of occasions last season is young Paul Griffiths, a full back. He is included in tomorrow's squad.

Another player in the squad is R. Wilks of Cheltenham, who played against Wycombe last term in a friendly. Local players D. Kitchen, S. Thorne and S. Smith have also been in training.

Several of last year's team are still away on holiday, amongst them Tony Horseman, Mick Holifield and Steve Perrin. But

regulars' Dave Bullock, Keith Mead, Graham Mackenzie, Tony Price, John Maskell, Paul Birdseye, Dylan Evans and Keith Sealé should all be in action against Didcot. Holifield is expected back for the second friendly — the first open to the public — against Oxford United at Loakes Park on Monday.

John Reardon reports that Sealé has been training well and seems to be in sharp form but John's brother, Terry, is still nursing a broken hand which he sustained on tour. Terry should resume training next week.

One familiar face at the Bisham training sessions is Johnny Hutchinson, who spent three seasons with Wanderers. He left the club last term for a spell at Hayes but could be back at Loakes Park for the coming season.